

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 22 through 45 and 52 are pending, with Claims 22, 23, 27, 35, 36, 39, and 40 being independent. Claim 52 has been added.

In response to the election of species requirement set forth in the Official Action, Applicants provisionally elect Embodiment 2, which is depicted in Figs. 5 and 6A-6F, with traverse, and respectfully submit that at least Claims 22, 26/22, and 27 are readable thereupon, with Claims 22 and 27 being generic to plural embodiments. However, the election of species requirement respectfully is traversed. Neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Further, the making of an election of species requirement is not mandatory in all instances. It is submitted that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims in the present application. Accordingly, in the interests of prosecution and economy of time, for Applicants, the Office, and the public-at-large, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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